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REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

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OCT 4 - 1919

EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., October 2, 1919

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HIGH PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM EXPECTED TO CONTINUE*

(Reports from the Agricultural Trade Commissioner at London, Aug. 29 and Sept. 4)

There have been no startling changes in the food situation of the United Kingdom during August. The prices of food are high, and there is no relief in sight. In fact, the Government is warning the people that the present high prices, or even higher prices, will probably prevail throughout next winter. Congestion at the docks and insufficient facilities for handling goods tends to increase the cost of commodities. Then, too, the Government maximum prices for foodstuffs has been accepted by many storekeepers as their minimum prices. For example, inferior apples are selling at the maximum fixed price of 9d. (\$0.16) a pound. This abuse has caused the British Food Controller to prohibit the use of the customary signs with the words "Government Controlled Prices" unless the word "Maximum" be added.

Bacon.---The Food Controller has sent a buying commission to the United States to make purchases of bacon. Since the resumption of the 1919 order pork

*Conversion of British currency into U. S. money made at the rate prevailing on August 29, when 1 pound sterling = \$4.2125.

products have been handled through the Associated Meat Importers' Committee. The Food Controller has taken over the outstanding contracts of the committee, and is making its own distribution through the extensive machinery of the Government. The wholesaler distributes the goods to the retailer, whose allotment is determined by the number of individual ration cards on his books.

Milk.---The Ministry of Food announced that the Cream Order of 1918, which was suspended on April 12, 1919, will again become operative on September 1. From that date the sale of cream except for making butter and for invalids and children is prohibited. Efforts are being made to prevent an increase in the price of milk. The farmers are asking that a price be set of 1s. 2d. or 1s. 3d. (\$0.245 or \$0.263) a quart, but the dealers are urging a 1ld. (\$0.193) quart, and state that any higher price will prevent its use by the children of the poorer classes. However, a raise to about 1s. (\$0.21) is regarded as necessary in order to keep up production.

Cheese.---If the price of milk is increased, and the consumption falls, the price of cheese will probably be increased. At present cheese is being sold by the Government at a loss. It is expected that the price may be increased to 3s. (\$0.63).

Eggs.---Eggs are becoming dearer. In London newly laid eggs are selling at 5d. each (\$1.16 a dozen). The constant rise in price has been brought to the attention of the Food Controller, and it is possible that eggs may be placed under Government control.

The present demand is supplied largely by Irish eggs. There are a few American eggs on the market, but their condition varies. American exporters should bear in mind that the English market demands clean, well-graded eggs.

Oils and Oilseeds.---Owing to the rather general speculation in concentrated cattle feeds the Ministry of Food has issued an order licensing all firms and individuals in products of copra, cottonseed, linseed, peanuts, palm kernels, rapeseed, rice bran, rice meal, sesame seed, and soy beans. This order, effective September 15, excepts (1) contracts entered into before the date of the order; (2) purchases not exceeding 4 tons of cake or meal in any one month; (3) purchases by farmers for their own cattle.

Available reports indicate that the following reductions in the prices of vegetable oils have taken place recently: palm-kernel oil, from \$526.52 to \$463.38; coconut oil, from \$526.52 to \$463.38; peanut oil, from \$568.69 to \$484.44; soy-bean oil, from \$568.69 to \$484.44; and linseed oil, from \$526.52 to \$463.38, per ton of 2,240 pounds.

Surplus of Foodstuffs in Australia.---According to a cablegram from Sydney, Australia, dated September 4, the following quantities of foodstuffs and wool are available for export to the United Kingdom:

Wheat	12,264,000 bushels
Meats	112,000,000 pounds
Rabbits	51,520,000 pounds
Other foodstuffs	134,400,000 pounds
Wool	1,320,000 bales of 330 pounds.

The cold-storage plants of Australia are crowded, and requests are being made for permission to ship refrigerated rabbits in vessels without cold-storage facilities.

Comparison of the Average Retail Prices of Various Foodstuffs in the
United Kingdom, July, 1914, and August, 1919

Average				Average			
price*				price*			
Article	July, 1914	Aug., 1919	(Per cent)	Article	July, 1914	Aug., 1919	(Per cent)
Beef, British:				Flour, per 7 lbs.	.213	.324	52
Ribs.....	.0.198	.0.365	84	Bread, per 4 lbs.	.117	.182	56
Thin flank.....	.132	.264	100	Tea.....	.375	.623	66
Beef, chilled or frozen:				*Sugar, granulated	.040	.141	253
Ribs.....	.147	.304	107	Milk, per quart....	.071	.147	107
Thin flank.....	.096	.198	106	Butter:			
Mutton, British:				Fresh.....	.294	.608	107
Legs.....	.208	.385	85	Salt.....	.284	.608	114
Breast.....	.132	.233	77	Cheese, Canadian or:	.177	.365	106
Mutton, frozen:				United States....	.177	.365	106
Legs.....	.137	.324	137	Margarine.....	.147	.263	79
Breast.....	.081	.162	100	Eggs, fresh (each)...	.025	.086	244
Bacon, streaky.....	.228	.563	149	Potatoes, (new)			
				per 7 lbs.....	.096	.319	232

*Price per pound unless otherwise indicated.

AUSTRALIAN RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE TERM "F.O.B."---According to the British Board of Trade Journal for August 14, 1919, the Melbourne, Australia, Chamber of Commerce has suggested to Australian importers that in view of a general misunderstanding between American exporters and Australian importers in regard to the definition of the term "f.o.b." American contracts should distinctly read f.o.b. overseas vessels at New York, San Francisco, or any other port as the case may be. Where the port of shipment is left open the Chamber of Commerce recommended that the contract should read f.o.b. overseas vessel.

NETHERLANDS PERMITS ENTRY OF RAW MATERIALS IN BOND FOR EXPORT MANUFACTURE.---Owing to the keen competition which the Netherlands is facing in foreign trade, a law has been passed permitting the entry in bond of raw materials intended to be manufactured into products for export, says the British Board of Trade Journal for August 14, 1919. This action will eliminate all import and excise duties on such materials.

Note.--Unless otherwise stated, conversion of foreign prices into U. S. money has been made at the par value of the foreign moneys.

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE SALE OF FOODSTUFFS on August 26, according to Il Sole, Milan. Trading in grain, grain products, vegetables, sugar, meats, dairy products, edible oils, fats, and preserved fish will be handled by two consortiums, one for grains and the other for meats, dairy products, etc.

GERMANY PROHIBITS IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS FROM DENMARK AND THE NETHERLANDS.---The German Ministry of Food has decided to stop buying foodstuffs in Denmark and the Netherlands for the present, owing to the ruinously low prevailing exchange for German currency, says the Danish Butter Trade Journal, Copenhagen, Denmark, for August 29, 1919.

THE SHORTAGE OF RICE IN HONGKONG has become so critical that the Hongkong Government has taken over all stocks of rice and has fixed the retail price at \$0.126, \$0.09, and \$0.075 per pound, respectively, for first, second, and third grades, says the American Consul General at Hongkong, in a report to the Department of State, dated July 30, 1919. These prices are misleading, however, as it is generally understood that in anticipation of such action many dealers mixed lower grades of rice with the better grades, and consequently there is little third-grade rice on hand. The Government has made arrangements for the import of about 7,000 tons of rice monthly so long as the shortage continues, and meanwhile has prohibited the export of rice from the Colony except by special permit of the Superintendent of Imports and Exports. Rice warehouses are closed, export contracts and ship charters for carrying rice have been suspended, and emergency measures for feeding the poor have been adopted. Government estimates that it will lose \$160,000 monthly by reason of its action in behalf of the poor of the Colony. It is expected that when the rice ordered by the Hongkong Government from Bangkok arrives further reductions in the price of grain can be made.

SIAM'S EXPORTS OF RICE RESTRICTED 15 PER CENT.---The American Consul at Bangkok, Siam, reports, under date of July 10, 1919, that the total exports of rice from Siam for the current fiscal year ending March 31, 1920, will be restricted probably to 1,000,000 short tons. The yearly average exports for the 5-year period 1913-1917 were 1,154,248 tons. Our imports of rice and rice products from Siam averaged 1,455 tons for the same period.

"THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS ARRANGED SHIPPING SPACE for a large quantity of new-crop corn from Rhodesia", according to the African World, London, for August 2, 1919. "It is estimated that some 500,000 bags (1,735,714 bushels) of Rhodesian corn will be shipped from Beira (Portuguese East Africa) within the next few months. This amount, together with an available minimum quantity of 200,000 bags (714,285 bushels) from Portuguese Africa, will tax the resources of the railways to bring it down quickly enough to suit the arrival of the steamers." Beira is the nearest port to Rhodesia, and is the seaport terminus of the Salisbury-Beira Railway.

MARKETING APPLES IN THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.---According to the Weekly Bulletin of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada for August 25, 1919, "under the preferential tariff, apples from Canada are duty free in the British West Indies if accompanied with a certificate of origin; otherwise the duty is 2 per cent ad valorem.

"There are no embargoes nor restrictions on apples, and there are no regulations in regard to insects, pests, or diseases.

"The cheaper classes of apples are shipped in barrels, and are sold on consignment, but the better classes, such as Red Dessert, or Spitzenberg, are shipped in open boxes or crates, and are placed in cold storage. These are generally in fulfillment of firm orders. The boxes contain about one gross and the fruit retails at \$0.03 to \$0.05 each.

"The season during which apples would find the best market would be during the winter months, say, from November to February. The freight to the West Indies is quite an item, the last available rates (1918) were as follows: for barrels, \$1; and in cold storage, boxes, \$0.40 per cubic foot. The cheaper kind are sold by commission houses, while the others are generally bought by the large grocery firms."

THE DRIED-FRUIT INDUSTRY OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA IS INCREASING, according to the African World, London, for July 26, 1919. Exports of raisins, mostly to the United Kingdom, have risen from 882 tons in 1917 to 1,435 tons in 1918. Now that shipping facilities have improved South Africa intends to increase the exports of raisins and other dried fruits. The present annual production is estimated at 2,500 tons of raisins, 500 tons of Sultanas, 600 tons of prunes, 200 tons of pears, 100 tons of apricots, and 400 tons of peaches.

EXPORTS OF EGGS FROM CANADA.---The movement of eggs from Canada for export has been heavy during the first three weeks of September, according to a report of the Poultry Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Most of these are storage eggs, going to the United Kingdom to complete sales made earlier in the year. Beginning in March Canada has exported 64,355 cases of 30 dozen each, or 1,930,650 dozen, as follows: March, 7,620 cases; April, 8,405; May, 18,023; June, 6,495; July, 3,245; August, 6,421; September 1-20, 13,122 cases.

The British wholesale prices per dozen* for September 20 and 22 were as follows: English, \$0.96 - \$1.04; Irish, \$0.87 - \$0.93; Danish, \$0.85 - \$0.89; Canadian, \$0.70; American, \$0.64 - \$0.68; Chinese, \$0.44 - \$0.66.

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on Sept. 20 and 22: Sept. 20th 1 pound sterling = \$4.155; Sept. 22d \$4.1529.

CONTINUED SHORTAGE OF BUTTER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.---"Butter is still scarce in the United Kingdom," says Agricultural Trade Commissioner Foley in a report dated August 29. "Though the demand is great, the fixed retail price of 2s.6d. (\$0.527) per pound renders unprofitable the exportation of American butter to Great Britain. American butter, moreover, is

not very popular here, as it is too salty for the British taste. Nearly three times as much butter was imported during prewar years as during the war. The difference was supplied largely by margarine, but the supply of the latter is about exhausted, and at present margarineless and butterless bread is the rule."

The following statistics from the British Board of Trade Journal show the changes that have taken place in the Great Britain sources of supply of butter during the past three years (in cwt. of 112 pounds):

Origin	1918	1917	1916
United States.....	196,593	10,534	131,618
Argentina	313,143	142,300	117,597
Australia.....	550,462	516,789	140,520
Canada.....	61,971	33,057	101,531
Denmark.....	40,327	622,160	1,134,801
France.....	4,770	45,707	130,249
Netherlands.....	9,885	75,880	36,202
New Zealand.....	372,572	310,925	331,162
Russia.....	---	---	31,918
All others.....	64,902	49,164	19,817
Total.....	1,614,625	1,806,516	2,175,415

In 1916 Denmark was the principal source of supply, with New Zealand second, the United States fourth. In 1917 Denmark was still the principal source, and Australia took second place. Last year Australia held first place, New Zealand second, Argentina third, and the United States fourth. From 1916 to 1918 the imports of butter decreased 560,790 cwt., or 25.7 per cent.

THE BRITISH CONTRACT PRICES FOR ARGENTINE BUTTER from April 1 to December 31, 1919, as published in the Weekly Bulletin of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada for August 11, 1919, are as follows, f.o.b. Buenos Aires:

First-grade butter	\$0.347 a pound
Second-grade butter .....	.332 a pound
Third-grade butter .....	.315 a pound

SWISS LIVESTOCK CENSUS CONFIRMS REPORT OF DEPARTMENT'S INVESTIGATIONS.---In Reports on Foreign Markets No. 27 statistics of the livestock in Switzerland were given for the years 1911, 1916, and 1918, in order to show the need for building up the Swiss herds and the desirability of importing slaughter animals from the United States during the process of reconstruction.

The results of the livestock census taken on June 16, 1919, have just been received from the American Consul at Berne. This bears out the statement made by the Department's investigators that probably there has been a decrease in the number of cattle. Decreases have occurred in the number of horses, donkeys, cattle, and goats, as shown by the following table:

Animal	1919	1918	Change	Animal	1919	1918	Change
			Per				Per
			cent				cent
Horses.....	123,762	128,971	- 4.0	Hogs...	464,402	365,798	+27.0
Mules.....	3,253	3,092	+ 5.2	Sheep...	263,729	229,649	+14.8
Donkeys.....	956	1,072	-10.8	Goats...	349,794	356,455	- 1.9
Cattle (total)	1,432,191	1,530,522	- 6.4				
Cows only.....	738,169	786,565	- 6.2				

REPORTS ON LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS*

(Special Reports for Bureau of Markets from American Consul General at London)

At the London wool auctions of the 18th 8,000 bales were offered and quickly cleared, prices showing hardening tendencies on late advance for the better qualities of both merinos and crossbreds. Sydney wools of both descriptions in greasy state brought 62 and 52-1/2d. (\$1.08 and \$0.90) per pound, respectively. Queensland scoured merinos ranged up to 78-1/2d. (\$1.44) for combing and 75d. (\$1.30) for lamb's. Victorian offerings consisting mainly of greasy clips realized 60d. (\$1.04) for the finest merino; 18 to 33-1/2d. (\$0.31 to \$0.58) for crossbred lamb's. The best West Australian greasy merino pieces and lamb's wool brought 37-1/2 and 37d. (\$0.65 and \$0.64), respectively. New Zealand greasy crossbreds consisting of medium to lower grades realized for best combing 34-1/2d. (\$0.60) and for lamb's 40d. (\$0.69). In the 1,700 bales of greasy crossbred Punta Arenas free wools offered the best of the finer grades realized 45-1/2d. (\$0.79).

The announcement was made that arrangements have been made to offer 40,000 bales of Australian and 10,000 of New Zealand wools on Government account for public auction in Boston, Mass., at the end of November.

On the 19th 11,000 bales of the best Queensland scoured wools were offered. Merino fleeces ranged up to 88d. (\$1.53); clothing descriptions 86d. (\$1.49); Sydney greasy clothings 55d. (\$0.95); Victorian greasy crossbreds and greasy comebacks 55 and 57-1/2d. (\$0.95 and \$1.00) respectively; best Adelaide scoured merino combings 84-1/2d. (\$1.47); best New Zealand greasy crossbreds 39d. (\$0.68).

At the auctions on the 21st 24,956 bales were offered "on description". Carbonizing wools were slightly lower than those at the inspection sales, while the finer grades remained unchanged. Good representative selections of combing and clothing scoured merinos attracted much attention. The best parcels of quality which were included among the Sydney offerings fell to American account at 92-1/2d. (\$1.60); the finest of Adelaide greasy merinos were sold to American buyers at 55-1/2d. (\$0.96). The best Victorian and South Australian greasy lamb's wool realized 59d. (\$1.02). New Zealand growers realized for the best of scoured merinos 75d. (\$1.30); pieces 70-1/2d. (\$1.31); slipe merinos 43d. (\$0.74); greasy 56's quality 48d. (\$0.83).

On the 22d 8,700 bales were offered. Sydney greasy merinos ranged up to 65d. (\$1.12); the best Queensland scoured merinos brought 80d. (\$1.38);

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on date of sale: Sept. 18, 1 pound sterling = \$4.16625; Sept. 19, \$4.1625; Sept. 20, \$4.155; Sept. 22, \$4.1525; Sept. 23, \$4.175; Sept. 24, \$4.205.

the best Victorian greasy crossbreds and comebacks realized 49 and 46d. (\$0.85 and \$0.79), respectively. New Zealand offerings comprising chiefly greasy and slipe crossbreds ranged up to 52d. (\$0.90) for the best half-bred slipe lamb's and 38d. (\$0.66) for greasy clips.

On the 23d 9,900 bales were offered, and practically all were cleared. The best Sydney and Victorian greasy merinos ranged from 48 to 65-1/2d. (\$0.83 to \$1.14). The finest combing scoured merino wools from Queensland realized 84d. (\$1.46). A liberal assortment of greasy crossbreds from New Zealand ranged from 47 to 45d. (\$0.82 to \$0.78).

On the 24th 9,000 bales were offered, with keen competition resulting in the highest prices of the series. Superior Queensland scoured merinos brought record price of 100-1/2d. (\$1.76); Victorian greasy merino for American account 70-1/2d. (\$1.24). For Queensland scoured merinos from 80 to 96-1/2d. (\$1.40 to \$1.69) were repeatedly paid, while similar qualities of Victorian wool reached 90d. (\$1.58). The finest greasy crossbreds from New Zealand realized 57-1/2d. (\$1.01) and half-bred slipe lamb's 57d. (\$1.00).

THE RANGE OF PRICES FOR BRITISH-GROWN WOOL during the month of July, 1919, in comparison with the prices received during 1913 and during war control, were as follows:

	1913	War Control	1919
Best Down sheep.....	\$0.28--\$0.32	\$0.48	\$0.84--\$1.08
Oxford Down sheep.....	.26-- .30	.43	.80-- .92
Shropshire sheep.....	.28-- .30	.45	.82-- 1.00
Cheviot sheep.....	.26-- .28	.42	.76-- .88
Good Down-Cross sheep.....	.26-- .28	.43	.80-- 1.00
Lincolns.....	.23-- .25	.39	.44-- .56
Border-Leicesters.....	.23-- .26	.39-1/2	.56-- .76
Mashams.....	.20-- .24	.36-1/2	.34-- .46
Welsh.....	.16-- .20	.31	.48-- .60
Scotch Hill sheep.....	.16-- .18	.30	.32-- .40

---Table compiled from Cotton Gazette, Aug. 16, 1919.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS FROM NEW YORK FOR WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 20.--

Livestock.--723 head of cattle and 51 horses to Belgium.

Meats.--5,500,000 lbs. of pork and 3,100,000 lbs. of lard to the United Kingdom; 3,880,794 lbs. of frozen beef to Germany; 2,145,000 lbs. of dry salt pork and 2,870,000 lbs. of lard to the Netherlands.

Dairy Products.--4,287,271 lbs. of condensed milk and 3,441,107 lbs. of evaporated milk to the United Kingdom; 1,752,388 lbs. of condensed milk and 647,500 lbs. of evaporated milk to Belgium; 182,165 lbs. of condensed milk and 1,530,429 lbs. of evaporated milk to France; 560,000 lbs. of condensed milk to the Netherlands; 1,000,000 lbs. of evaporated milk to India; 310,000 lbs. of cheese to Scandinavia; 352,667 lbs. of butter to Italy; 504,000 lbs. of margarine to France.

Grain.--658,749 bus. of wheat to Italy; 416,277 bus. of wheat to France; 434,414 bus. of oats to the United Kingdom.

OCT 14 1919

EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., October 9, 1919

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RESUMPTION OF SHIPPING TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.--At the beginning of the British railway strike the United States Shipping Board canceled all clearances to the United Kingdom. However, since the settlement of the strike, this order has been partly revoked to allow loaded vessels to sail. As the congestion at the docks clears, full service will be resumed.

Agricultural Trade Commissioner Foley cabled to the Bureau of Markets under date of September 27 that, owing to the increasing dock congestion, shippers of perishables should be warned against shipment, unless f. o. b. American ports. Mr. Foley stated that the congestion was likely to prevail for some time after the settlement of the strike.

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT LONDON SUGGESTS REDUCTION OF EXPORTS.---The American Consul General at London reported to the Department of State under date of August 25, 1919, that the serious fall in the value of the pound sterling in America, with its possible adverse effect on exports from America, has led to the issuance by the American Chamber of Commerce in London of a strong appeal to American firms to curtail their exports to Great Britain, and,

in fact, to moderate considerably their plan of campaign to flood the market with imports from America, as it is argued that, unless restraint be exercised, further depreciation in the value of the pound sterling appears inevitable.

VENEZUELA PREFERENCES CANNED FRUITS IN GLASS CONTAINERS ---Venezuela normally imports a large amount of canned goods from Spain, France, and Italy, owing perhaps to the tasty arrangement in glass containers of the product from those countries, according to a report from the American Vice Consul at Maracaibo, Venezuela. Recently the United States has been exporting large amounts of canned goods and if the goods are put up attractively a profitable market may be developed.

"The importers prefer to have fruit, especially jams, preserves, and jellies, put up in glass jars holding about 1 pint, or more. They should come packed preferably 24 to each package." A list of the importers of canned goods may be obtained from the Bureau of Markets by asking for report Venezuela 120669.

ECUADOR AS A MARKET FOR CANNED GOODS.---Canned fruits are imported by Ecuador chiefly from Chile, the United States, and Spain. Of a total amount of 73,833 pounds, 24,833 pounds, or about one-third, were imported from the United States in 1916, according to statistics furnished by the American Consul General at Guayaquil. Half of the imports of jellies, 11,215 pounds, came from this country. Spain furnished 42,743 pounds of olives, but the United States ranked second, with a total of 16,407 pounds. One-third of Ecuador's imports of tomato sauce, 6,634 pounds, came from this country. Practically all the grape juice, 10,115 pounds, was furnished by the United States.

According to the Consul General these goods are used generally, "it being rare to take a meal in which they are not served."

Fruit in tins should be packed in firm crates of wood the ends of which should be strapped. When the containers are glass or crockery, they should be packed in excelsior or straw in barrels.

A list of the dealers in canned goods in Guayaquil, Quito, Manta, Bahia de Caraquez, and Esmeraldas may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Markets by asking for report Ecuador 121157.

THE BALANCE OF WHEAT IN AUSTRALIA REMAINING UNSOLD AT THE END OF THIS YEAR has been estimated to be not more than 30,000,000 bushels, according to the London Grain, Seed, and Oil Reporter for August 26, 1919. Exports of wheat from Australia from January 1 to August 22, 1919, were as follows: United Kingdom, 4,640,000 bus.; Continental Europe, 4,832,000 bus.; for orders, 44,168,000 bus.; all others, 16,048,000 bus.; total, 69,688,000 bus.

NOTE.---UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONETIES.

Reexports of Foreign Rice* and Beans from the
United States during August, 1919

Exported to--	Cleared rice		Beans	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Pounds		Bushels	
Austria Hungary	30,000	\$ 2,925	----	----
Belgium	---	----	5,557	\$ 20,505
Denmark	1,440,605	142,143	9,333	44,800
Germany	---	----	2,377	6,969
Greece	110,000	11,672	305	1,333
Netherlands	---	----	30,000	293,250
Norway	78,402	10,024	5,196	24,358
Roumania	112,000	12,488	----	----
Turkey in Europe	224,000	24,400	28,673	131,387
England	100,000	15,000	175,174	1,050,868
Canada	189,363	18,028	5,006	12,532
Costa Rica	10,000	950	1	2
Guatemala	35,552	3,775	3	19
Honduras	6,520	770	3	21
Mexico	174,375	18,599	19	82
Jamaica	433,000	28,800	----	----
Other British West Indies ..	14,536	1,229	----	----
Cuba	3,702,704	367,140	33,999	230,457
Dutch West Indies	14,300	1,072	----	----
French West Indies	45,000	4,250	----	----
Haiti	105,773	9,337	----	----
Dominican Republic	1,325,748	121,039	----	----
Argentina	36,700	4,500	----	----
Chile	5,000	475	----	----
Colombia	383,000	24,683	----	----
Venezuela	695,600	54,035	----	----
French Oceania	2,500	300	13	24
All others	3,265	520	1,247	15,947
Total	9,273,548	\$378,809	296,906	\$1,333,454

*Reexports of uncleaned rice: Norway, 34,726 pounds, valued at \$3,740; Dominican Republic, 112,900 pounds, valued at \$12,083. Reexports of rice flour, rice meal, and broken rice: Denmark, 94,528 pounds, valued at \$7,000; Costa Rica, 40 pounds, valued at \$6; Mexico, 475 pounds, valued at \$53; and New Zealand, 48,837 pounds, valued at \$1,499.

THE QUANTITY OF GRAIN AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT BY JUGOSLAVIA is estimated by the Minister of Commerce of Yugoslavia at 800,000 to 1,000,000 tons of 2,204.5 pounds, writes the American Charge d'Affaires at Belgrade, in a report to the Department of State dated August 28, 1919. "Regarding export the Government is naturally most willing to export to the best markets and insists only upon receiving in exchange either goods or some stable currency. It refuses to receive depreciated and fluctuating Austrian or Hungarian crowns, the country being already flooded with them."

SELLING PRICES OF CANADIAN WHEAT.---The Wheat Board of Canada has fixed the following prices for the sale of wheat to flour mills: \$2.30 per bushel, including \$0.05 per bushel carrying charges, basis No. 1 Northern in store public terminal elevators, Fort William and Fort Arthur; \$2.33 per bushel, including \$0.05 per bushel carrying charges, basis No. 1 Spring or No. 1 White Winter wheat, in store Montreal; \$2.31 per bushel, including \$0.05 per bushel carrying charges, basis No. 1 mixed Ontario and Quebec wheat in store Montreal; \$2.27 per bushel, including \$0.05 per bushel carrying charges, basis No. 1 Goose Wheat in store Montreal; \$2.25-1/2 per bushel, including \$0.05 per bushel carrying charges, basis No. 1 British Columbia wheat, in store Canadian Government Elevator, Vancouver.

EXPORT OUTLOOK FOR DRAFT HORSES.---The export market for draft horses is encouraging, despite high ocean freight rates, according to a report from commercial sources published in the Grain Growers' Guide (Winnipeg, Manitoba) for August 20, 1919. It is said that three buyers expect to purchase 400 to 500 horses on the Chicago market each week for shipment abroad.

"The horse that is most sought for is the one that will stand 16.3 to 17 hands, with depth of chest equal to one-half his height, and well proportioned throughout. Such a horse must be strong-backed, powerful in build, deep middled and well let down in the flanks, with good underpinning, and weigh over 1,700 pounds in working flesh. Such horses will bring from \$325 to \$350 each. Short, steep pasterns, small constricted feet or crooked hocks, and unsound horses are not wanted.

"One fact of especial interest to farmers is that the exporters will take the mediocre stuff if they can not get the best. No man can afford to sell the best if he expects to improve his horses. There is a steadily growing demand for drafters for city and construction work, as well as for export. Shrewd judges of the market predict that by 1921 good draft horses will be higher in price than ever before; and then there will be a frenzied stampede of farmers to breed their mares, and with this will come a widespread demand for good stallions, which the pure-bred horse breeders of America, largely Percheron, must meet.

"Sir Merrick Burrell, vice-president of the British Percheron Horse Society, will visit the United States this fall for the purpose of acquainting himself with the resources of the United States in Percherons."

CRITICAL MEAT SITUATION IN FRANCE.---The following excerpt from a report of the American Ambassador to France to the Department of State dated August 23, 1919, indicates that the measures taken by the French Government to meet the food crisis have had a serious effect on the business of American packing houses. According to this report "the packers claim that the prices on meat products specified as 'normal' are actually below their costs. They claim that the prices fixed for the present trade are based on prices of some of the army stocks now in liquidation. They are compelled to demand far higher prices than 'normal' prices, and in consequence find the market for their goods in France very restricted. While the so-called prices are not maximum prices, in effect they work out as such. The wholesalers and retailers, in the face of published official lists of 'normal' prices, can hardly

offer meats for sale at prices substantially higher, or even double those prices. Accordingly they do not buy. Several of the American packers find themselves with stocks of smoked meat, and meats in brine, for which, under the circumstances, there is no French market. One of the packers reports that considerable stocks of smoked and salted meats have already deteriorated so that they have to be thrown away or reworked. To meet the situation the packers have applied for export licenses, but their license applications have been refused. One of the packers brought in meat and put it in bonded warehouses in the ports with a view to reexporting, but export permits have been refused even for these products. It was reported also that another packer had made a big sale in France during the week at a very heavy loss, in order to dispose of products for which export licenses could not be obtained and which would otherwise have been a total loss."

SWISS DO NOT LIKE AMERICAN BACON.---The American Consul at Berne in a report to the Department of State, dated July 1, 1919, stated that "though large quantities of American pork, lard, and salted bacon have been imported into Switzerland and are offered for sale, they do not find especial favor with the Swiss consumer, and are sold at a lower price than similar articles of native production. Swiss people hold American bacon in low esteem." This dislike may be accounted for partly by the preference of the Swiss for hogs fattened on vegetables, and not upon corn and other grains. American packers should study the preferences of the Swiss people when preparing goods for marketing in that country.

CANADA WILL EXPORT LARGE QUANTITIES OF BACON TO THE UNITED KINGDOM during the remainder of this year. The Agricultural Gazette, London, for August 11 states that it is estimated that 112,000,000 pounds will come from the Dominion.

SWITZERLAND TO IMPORT LARGE QUANTITIES OF BUTTER.---According to a report from the American Consul at Berne, under date of July 1, "the Swiss Government has placed an order in the United States for 1,102,300 pounds of butter to be delivered at Rotterdam, to cost from \$0.575 to \$0.60 per pound, c.i.f.

"An order has also been placed in Denmark for the delivery of 1,543,220 pounds of Danish butter. A similar order has been placed in Holland for the delivery of 661,380 pounds of Dutch butter "

Reference has been made in these Reports to large shipments of butter at various times since July 1 to the Netherlands, and to one shipment on August 18 of 33,006 pounds to Switzerland. Before the war very little butter was exported to Switzerland, as that land normally is a dairy country.

BELGIUM CANNOT GET BUTTER FROM THE NETHERLANDS. ---"Mr. Godfrey Langlois, Agent General of the Province of Quebec in Brussels, Belgium, writes under date of July 16:

"It may be interesting to the readers of your Weekly Bulletin to know that the Dutch Government has prohibited the exportation of butter to Belgium. As four-fifths of the butter entering this country since the armistice came from Holland, it seems that there are openings for Canadian butter on the Belgian market. At this moment butter is sold in retail stores at \$0.86 a pound." --Weekly Bulletin of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada, August 25, 1919.

*Conversion made at the rate of exchange prevailing on July 16: 1 franc = \$0.1369.

REPORTS ON LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS*

(Special Reports for Bureau of Markets from American Consul General at London)

At the London wool auctions on the 25th 8,000 bales were offered. The best Queensland scoured merinos realized 10ld. (\$1.77); the best Cape greasy wools 69-1/2d. (\$1.22). In a lot of 500 bales of Australian free wools the following prices prevailed: scoured merino combings, 80d. (\$1.40); lamb's, 52d. (\$0.91); and slipe quarter-bred lamb's, 46d. (\$0.81).

On the 26th 8,500 bales were offered. Scoured Australian merinos brought 94-1/2d. (\$1.67) per pound, taken principally by French buyers. Greasy crossbred wools from Sydney and New Zealand were purchased by British, Continental, and American buyers, but no price was quoted.

On the 27th 8,418 bales of wools from New South Wales, 10,138 bales from Queensland, and 4,680 bales from New Zealand were offered "on description." British, French, and American buyers were present. New Zealand greasy crossbred 58's quality realized 47d. (\$0.83); 56's to 58's quality 44d. (\$0.78); 56's quality 48-1/2d. (\$0.86); and 48's to 50's quality 38-1/2d. (\$0.68); scoured merino 80d. (\$1.42); pieces 75d. (\$1.33); Sydney greasy merinos realized 65d. (\$1.15); Queensland scoured merino clothing wools 64d. (\$1.14). The finest greasy merino clothing lamb's wool ranged from 13 to 41d. (\$0.23 to \$0.73).

At the sales on the 29th 1,890 bales from New South Wales, 2,538 bales from Queensland, 1,104 from Victoria, and 3,804 bales from New Zealand were offered. The buying was on a liberal scale. Americans purchased a fair quantity, including the best Sydney greasy merino combings at 70-1/2d. (\$1.24) and light conditional greasy crossbreds from New Zealand at 44d. (\$0.77).

The sales will continue under condition 6 of the strike clause, but where this condition does not operate regarding foreign purchases interest from the prompt day will not be charged. On October 1 the Committee of London Wool Brokers were authorized by the Ministry of Munitions to make following announcement: "It is agreed that purchasers for export as well as home purchasers are affected by strike and are therefore governed by condition 6 of the conditions of sale. The 72 hours under which delivery orders have to be returned to brokers will not be enforced. Buyers shall have

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on date of sale:
Sept. 25, 1 pound sterling = \$4.205; Sept. 26, \$4.2475; Sept. 27, \$4.26;
Sept. 29, \$4.215; Oct. 1, \$4.1925.

option of declaring that their contracts shall not be annulled on the twenty-eighth day as provided for in condition 6, but such option must be exercised by buyers, by declaration in writing to Committee of London Wool Brokers before 4 P.M. October 2 and must apply to whole or buyers' purchases for current series of auctions. In case of buyers making such declaration the contracts at auction relating thereto shall be governed by condition 6. It must be understood that all relaxations only hold good for wools during present sales."

On October 1 the 11,800 bales offered found a ready sale. The best Victorian scoured merinos marked "Clyde" realized 99d. (\$1.73); 1,257 bales of Punta Arenas free greasy crossbreds realized for the best 36d. (\$0.629).

"IMPORTS OF WOOL INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM this year have been on a colossal scale," according to the Wool Record & Textile World for August 14, 1919. During the seven-month period January - July, 2,117,690 bales of foreign wool were imported. Of these 99,260 bales were reexported, leaving a balance of 2,018,430 bales on hand August 1.

STOCKS OF RAW COTTON IN THE UNITED KINGDOM on July 31, 1919, as obtained by the American Agricultural Trade Commissioner at London, were as follows:

Kind	: Stocks at Liverpool : Deliveries to Spinners	
	: on July 31, 1919	: to July 31, 1919
	<u>Bales</u>	<u>Bales</u>
American	480,910	2,065,291
African	21,110	8,572
Brazilian	7,510	7,173
East Indian	60,550	62,245
Egyptian	13,920	393,868
Peruvian	68,070	108,176
West Indian	7,300	2,909
Total	639,370	2,648,234

The total imports of Egyptian cotton by the United Kingdom up to July 31, 1919, amounted to 413,614 bales.

BENEFITS OF CONTROL OF EGYPTIAN COTTON

(From American Consul General at London, July 25, 1919)

"With the season commencing on August 1st State Control of Egyptian cotton will cease. (See Reports on Foreign Markets No. 21, page 3). The policy consisted of purchasing the cotton at a price which provided buyer with a profit and was sold so as to allow a margin sufficient to cover cost of handling until shipped.

"The scheme resulted in settled in place of fluctuating and speculative prices, and the trade in Egyptian yarn and fine cloth benefited. In anticipation of the end of control, dealings in futures have revived with a consequent rise in prices of yarn for future delivery. Spinners and manufacturers fully approved of the policy, but growers considered it severe in that it decreased their profits."

LIST OF MEMBERS OF BARCELONA COTTON ASSOCIATION.---A list of the members of the cotton association of Barcelona, Spain, has been received from the American Consul General at Barcelona. Copies of this list which includes the names of brokers, agents and manufacturers, may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Markets by asking for report Spain 120948.

RESTRICTION OF SUGAR EXPORTS BY UNITED STATES AFFECTS FRENCH SUPPLY

In the "Weekly Report on Important Events in France" submitted to the Department of State by the American Ambassador to France, under date of July 19, 1919, there occurs a review of the food prospects, special reference being given to the sugar shortage. The Ambassador says:

"The sugar shortage has been the subject of pointed debates in Parliament. There is an acute sugar shortage in France at this time, and the use of saccharin for sweetening continues general in the popular eating houses, and even in some of the best hotels and restaurants. There have been six large fires in the last two months which have destroyed considerable quantities of sugar. The French Minister of Agriculture in response to questions in Parliament also referred to the restriction of sugar exports from the United States as an important contributing factor to the existing shortage in France. The sugar ration has been 750 grams (26.4 oz.) per month per person in the Seine district, and only 500 (17.6 oz.) in some other districts. There has been considerable falsification of sugar tickets. In the Paris district there is heavy complaint by consumers who have not been able to get more than 250 or 300 grams (8.3 or 10.5 oz.) on their tickets instead of the allowed 750 grams (26.4 oz.), while some manufacturers of pastry, candy, and sirups have had plenty of sugar. While there undoubtedly is a shortage which is causing much popular unrest, frauds, and inequality of distribution have been one of the most distressing features of the situation."

SWEDEN FORMS SUGAR IMPORT MONOPOLY.---According to the British Board of Trade Journal for August 14, 1919, the Swedish Government has established a monopoly for the importation of sugar into Sweden from August 1, 1919 to October 31, 1920. According to Sweden press reports the July stocks of sugar will meet the requirements of Sweden until the 1919 production comes on the market, and it is anticipated that this year's production of beet sugar will be sufficient to meet most of the requirements of that country.

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., October 16, 1919.

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LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

BRITISH CONTROL OF IMPORTED MEAT.---According to a cablegram from the Agricultural Trade Commissioner at London, dated October 7, 1919, the British Food Controller issued an order, effective October 2, 1919, requiring all imported meat to be placed at his disposal and, if necessary, to be delivered to him. Importers are required to furnish information regarding any shipments expected after October 2. Pending any action by the Food Controller with regard to the requisitioning of imported meat, importers have been instructed to continue the storage of meat according to their usual custom.

WHY THE BRITISH DISLIKE AMERICAN BACON.---Reports have been received from various sources relative to the dislike of American bacon by British consumers. Messrs. Wright and Bell, of this Department, reported this sentiment in their review of the meat situation in the United Kingdom (See Supplement to Reports on Foreign Markets No. 13, page 6). American business men returning from England have made similar statements. The prevailing opinion was to the effect that American bacon became rancid either through improper curing or by being held in storage too long.

Another view was presented by Mr. H. S. Arkell, Livestock Commissioner of the Dominion of Canada, who investigated the possibilities of the bacon market in Europe last spring. In reporting the results of his investigation to the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association, Mr. Arkell made the following statement:

"The American product was purchased by the Allied Purchasing Commission during the war period to the extent of the available supply -- fat bacon and lean bacon at practically the same prices. Further, the Americans used the dry salt cure and, in view of the necessity of preserving the bacon for indefinite periods, they used a great deal more salt in the cure than is desirable or necessary for ordinary purposes. Under control, therefore, the British consumer was obliged to buy and eat American fat bacon so salty that it was almost unpalatable. Great Britain still has stocks of American bacon on hand,* and it is still an unsatisfactory and partially unmarketable article."

Mr. Arkell then goes on to say that the Wiltshire type of bacon, lean and cured in brine, is preferred in the United Kingdom and urges Canada to concentrate her efforts in supplying this type of bacon to Great Britain, "where the shortage of Wiltshire bacon is as much to be emphasized as the shortage of fat on the Continent. The market there is for a high-class bacon product for which proportionately high prices will be paid." During the war this class of bacon was purchased by the British Ministry of Food for the army, while the salt bacon was furnished to the civilians. "Under control bacon was sold at a single price, no matter what the quality, and that notwithstanding the high-class fastidious demand of the particular trade of London. In this way the British consumer was obliged to eat this salt bacon and pay the same price for it as for the very best that came to the market. This explains the situation and, while I am satisfied that the feeling of annoyance against the American product is partially unwarranted, nevertheless it exists and for the reason I have indicated."

According to Mr. Arkell the demand for the Wiltshire type of bacon now far exceeds the supply, and with proper development this trade should become very profitable.

*Cured for war purposes.

TWO MODEL STOCK FARMS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE STATE OF BAHIA, BRAZIL, one near Bonfia and the other near Mundo Novo. An appropriation of \$125,000 has been authorized for their establishment.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

AMERICAN EGGS IN COMPETITION WITH CHINESE EGGS.---As stated in previous Reports on Foreign Markets, our egg trade with the United Kingdom is coming more and more into competition with Chinese eggs. In regard to this phase, Mr. W. A. Brown, Chief of the Poultry Division of Canada, made the following statement at a recent poultry conference at Guelph:

NOTE.---UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U.S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS.

"The producing sections of China are upwards of a thousand or two thousand miles inland from Shanghai. They have to bring these eggs down by slow river transit, and the eggs that arrived in Canada last fall and came under our Canadian regulations would not pass the inspectors at a grade higher than seconds. Distance and other factors are in our favor, but we must reckon on having to meet the Chinaman as a particular competitor in England."

THE EXPORTATION OF CHEESE FROM NEW ZEALAND IS PROHIBITED if the product contains any other fat than butter fat, thus preventing the exportation of "margarine cheese" and "filled cheese," says the New Zealand Dairyman for July 19, 1919. Boxes containing pasteurized butter are required to have the word "Pasteurized" indelibly stamped upon them.

THE WAGES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF DAIRY FACTORIES IN NEW ZEALAND range from \$16.18 to \$21.90 per week, according to the size of the plant. This includes employees of creameries, dried-milk, and cheese factories. The salaries of creamery managers vary from \$14.60 to \$16.79 weekly, with house, fuel, and milk furnished. If a house is not provided, the manager is paid \$2.43 weekly in addition to his salary.--New Zealand Dairyman, July 19, 1919.

"EXPORTS OF BUTTER FROM THE NETHERLANDS IS RESTRICTED, but licenses may be obtained. During July the controlled dairies were allowed to export 961,206 pounds of butter." --Danish Butter Trade Journal.

SUPPLY AND PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS

SURPLUS OF CANE SUGAR IN ARGENTINA.--According to one of the leading banking establishments of Argentina, there is a sufficient amount of cane sugar in the country to meet the consumptive demands and to have a surplus for export says a report of the American Consul General at Buenos Aires, dated August 26, 1919.

"The absence of the dreaded frosts already ensures production of cane sugar far in excess of home requirements until the next crop. The production of sugar in the Province of Tucuman is estimated to reach at least 200,000 metric tons,* and that of other sugar-growing provinces (Jujuy, Salta, Chaco, Corrientes) to about 50,000 metric tons. If to this total of 250,000 metric tons there be added the surplus of 40,000 metric tons of sugar imported free of duty, the country possesses an available and prospective stock of 290,000 tons for its needs during the present industrial year. As those requirements are estimated at 200,000 to 210,000 tons, there will be an eventual surplus of 80,000 to 90,000 tons.

"This difference between the estimated demand and the supply caused, some weeks ago, a sudden fall in prices of all classes of sugar. Refined sugar in bags (crushed) fell from the then price of \$14.45 per 100 pounds to the present quotation of \$12.50 per cwt.

*1 ton = 2,204.6 pounds.

"The recent Government decree, prohibiting the exportation of sugar, assisted the decline in quotations. The manufacturers are now again faced with the problem of overproduction; this problem was previously solved by exporting sugar, principally to England and Uruguay, but this solution is one to which they can not under present circumstances have recourse, in view of the prohibiting decree. If the prohibition is maintained, the manufacturers will necessarily have to hold the excess production of 80,000 to 90,000 tons."

PRACTICALLY THE ENTIRE OUTPUT OF SUGAR IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC was purchased by the Canadian Food Board at a price equivalent to \$5.76 per cwt. c.i.f. New York.

THE PRICE OF SUGAR BEETS IN THE NETHERLANDS HAS INCREASED 103 per cent since 1915. This year the growers receive \$10.98 per ton of 2,204.6 pounds as against \$5.40 in 1915. Last year they received \$10.06 per ton.

FRANCE ATTRACTED BY PROSPECTS OF TRADE WITH DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.---

"Since May, 1916, when the United States Government landed troops in Santo Domingo, the country has been under American influence and control, and the prospects of a more stable Government for the republic have attracted the interest of France to the prospects of considerable trade development in the near future. The Dominican Republic, like the Latin-American republics, has prospered during the war, but the latest statistics available, those for 1917, show that the improvement coincided with the American administration of the country.

"Sugar production is the main industry of the republic, the exports for 1917 representing a money value of \$13,386,463. Though agriculture is still predominant in the country, a start in the direction of manufactures has been made, five sugar mills being in course of construction at a cost of \$4,000,000.

"A cotton mill was also established during the war."--Translated from L'Economiste Francais.

FRUITS, NUTS, AND VEGETABLES

GERMAN AGENT FOR DRIED FRUITS.---A firm in Hamburg, Germany, desires to represent American firms in the sale of dried fruits. If interested, ask for report "ai."

AUSTRALIAN CONSUMPTION OF DRIED FRUITS LOW.---The United States has built up an increasingly large trade in dried fruits with Australasia, especially with New Zealand where the exports from the United States have increased from 3,325,214 pounds in 1914 to 9,205,028 pounds in 1918 or 177 per cent.

The following table gives the exports (in pounds) of dried fruits from the United States to Australia and New Zealand for the fiscal years 1914

to 1918, inclusive:

Exports of Dried Fruits to Australasia by United States

Fruit	Exported to:	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Apples	Australia	139,250	114,053	324,477	25,600	18,075
Do	N. Zealand	69,160	186,330	154,683	92,335	140,320
Apricots	Australia	138,730	436,945	1,170,965	223,400	33,950
Do	N. Zealand	215,712	595,848	446,284	197,780	497,780
Peaches	Australia	153,450	92,585	412,410	169,920	8,770
Do	N. Zealand	110,230	131,575	178,015	139,993	201,990
Prunes	Australia	642,436	825,598	1,449,045	573,210	571,163
Do	N. Zealand	702,255	914,405	1,022,097	739,210	614,524
Raisins	Australia	9,200	13,412	83,202	17,775	167,109
Do	N. Zealand	1,044,791	3,601,593	4,318,552	4,408,398	5,951,342
Total, Australia		1,183,066	1,482,593	4,462,196	1,009,905	799,072
Total, N. Zealand		2,142,148	2,429,751	6,119,631	5,577,716	8,405,956
Total exports.....		3,325,214	3,912,344	10,581,827	6,587,621	9,205,028

That this trade probably can be increased is indicated by the following article from the London Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Trades' Journal for July 12, 1919, which states that the per capita consumption of Australasia is considerably lower than that of the United Kingdom, Canada, or the United States.

"The estimated Commonwealth production of dried fruits for the present season is as follows: Currants, 5,500 tons of 2,240 pounds; sultanas, 6,500 tons; lexias, 2,500 tons; total, 14,500 tons. The average Commonwealth consumption for the years 1915, 1916, and 1917 was 8,025 tons in the three lines. New Zealand usually takes about 10,000 tons of Australian products and the balance of her consumption from California. The consumption per capita in the Commonwealth is only a fraction over 4 lb. per head, as against 6 lb. per head in New Zealand, 10 lb. in Canada, 12 lb. in United States, and in Great Britain (prewar only) 25 lb. per head, largely currants. It is therefore apparent that the Commonwealth offers an ample field for increasing consumption of an Australian product. If the sales in Australia could be increased by another 4 lb. per capita, the whole Commonwealth production would be more than consumed within Australia, without exporting to New Zealand or other markets. Distilleries this year will not get more than low-grade fruit in currants and raisins, amounting to about 3 per cent. This year about 800 tons will go to London and about 500 tons to the East. The sales in Australia will, it is anticipated, absorb the output, after allowing for those exports."

GRAIN

ACUTE STAGE OF RICE CRISIS IN FAR EAST PROBABLY PAST

(From Consul General at Hongkong, August 14, 1919)

"All things considered, it is generally believed that the most acute phase of the rice shortage in the Far East, especially in South Asia, has been passed, although it is now generally recognized that the shortage is so serious and is so widespread that it will be several years before the world

generally, and especially the Far East, recovers from it. In a general way all the governments concerned have secured from other countries or have retained for their own use a supply of rice for the pressing needs of their people and matters are now resting more or less status in quo until the new crop of rice comes in. Little rice is being exported anywhere. In Indo-China the export of rice has been entirely stopped except for a few lots sold for government account and for the relief of other populations. The allotment for export during the month of August was only 20,000 tons, of which one-third was apportioned to Chinese shippers and the rest to European shippers. Nearly all of the allotment is on its way to Japan. The total exports from Indo-China for the year 1919 to July 22 amounted to 551,092 tons as against 350,609 tons for the same period of 1918. Rice is still allowed to go to France without restriction but the Government of Indo-China reserves the right to shut shipments off at any time, and, as a matter of fact, only a small amount is going in that direction. No exports will be allowed from Indo-China after September 1. In Hongkong the Government has exercised the right of seizure and purchase against two lots of rice for the United States, one of 500 tons for New York and another of 2,150 tons for San Francisco, and has stopped several shipments to Central and South American countries, to be made by way of the United States. It also has stopped a number of shipments to Japan and to other countries, basing its policy upon the idea that so far as possible rice should be taken first from countries in which rice is not the staple food of the people. The situation at present is such that it is believed no further seizures affecting the United States will be necessary. The transshipment trade is not being interfered with and rice from Indo-China and Siam is passing through for the United States and Central and South American countries. In the Philippines the Government has prohibited the export of rice, and it is believed that a fair supply is in hand for the rest of the season, a special effort being made to lead the people to use other cereal foods."

WOOL

SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPORTS OF WOOL DECREASED from 177,000,000 pounds in 1913 to 116,000,000 pounds in 1918, according to the African World, London, for July 26, 1919. On the other hand, the value increased from \$27,739,050 to \$47,205,050. The United States took one-third of the total exports of sheep's wool in 1918, the United Kingdom slightly more than one-fourth, and Japan a little less than one-fourth. The exports of mohair amounts to 19,600,000 pounds, an increase of 12 per cent over the exports in 1913. The United Kingdom took the bulk of mohair, and there was a large increase in the sales to the United States.

THE UNITED STATES IS ARGENTINA'S BEST CUSTOMER FOR WOOL. For the wool season of 1915-16 Argentina exported 152,593 bales to this country, or 51 per cent of Argentina's entire exports of wool. For 1916-17 the United States took 225,467 bales, or 64 per cent. For the 1917-18 season 209,528 bales, or 73 per cent, were shipped to this country.

SIXTH SERIES OF LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS ENDS*

(Special Reports for Bureau of Markets from American Consul General at London)

At the wool auctions on October 2d 14,650 bales were offered. The best greasy merinos from Queensland brought 72d. (\$1.27), and the finest scoured merino combings from Sydney realized 100d. (\$1.76). There were also offered 30,000 bales of South African free wools; greasy merinos bringing 37d. (\$0.65) and scoured snow whites 70d. (\$1.23).

The sixth series of London wool auctions closed on October 3, with catalogs of 8,860 bales. During the series it is estimated that about 80,000 bales have been purchased for Continental consumption, 10,000 for America, and 45,000 for home centers. The sales closed with a very firm tone, and prices at best point of the series. Compared with August sales merino wools showed a rise of 10 to 15 per cent; medium to fine crossbreds 10 per cent above August prices; the best of the coarser grades 5 per cent higher. Inferior and shabby parcels showed no change.

The next series has been set for October 20. A committee of London wool brokers was instructed to announce that interest and prepayments received up to and including September 30 will be allowed only up to the date of the original prompt, unless the buyer produces proof that his title to the goods has not been passed in the books of the warehouse keepers. Buyers should therefore return their delivery orders to office of the committee at the wool exchange.

Interest will not be allowed on prepayments received after September 30 unless the buyer produces evidence he is in position to and intends to take immediate delivery. An explanatory memorandum will be issued shortly regarding dates of extended prompts.

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on day of sale: Oct. 2 one pound sterling = \$4.2325.

COTTON

COTTON INDUSTRY PROGRESSES IN ZULULAND.---A report of the American Vice Consul at Cape Town, South Africa, states that "more attention than ever is being paid to cultivation of cotton in the Union of South Africa. During the 1917-1918 season approximately 10,000 acres were planted to cotton and the yield was estimated at 2,000,000 pounds. During the 1918-1919 season the acreage has been considerably increased.

"The Union Government, through the services of an American cotton expert, has been doing everything possible in aiding farmers to take up this new industry, providing them with seed, and teaching them how to adopt the best methods in cultivation and harvesting.

"While the most advanced development has taken place in the Transvaal, during the past year much attention has been directed to the available lands in Zululand where the acreage in some instances has practically doubled.

"The first cotton ginning plant in Zululand was installed in September, 1918. This plant is equipped with an 80-saw gin, with a capacity of 1,500 to 1,600 pounds of lint for an 8-hour day, which represents 2-1/2 tons of seed cotton. The machinery is of American manufacture.

"The establishment of this plant is looked upon as of far-reaching

importance in developing cotton growing in Zululand, as already evidenced by the greatly increased acreage towards the close of the year."

According to the South African Journal of Industries for July, 1919, the replacement of cane by cotton in parts of Zululand is being taken notice of by the sugar industry. A number of planters declare that they find cotton a more paying and a more promising crop than sugar. A great advantage in favor of cotton is that a crop can be planted and handled within about six months and does not involve the heavy expenditure for wagons, tramtrack, and vehicles, such as is essential with cane.

FERTILIZER

CHILEAN NITRATE SUPPLY.---The production of Chilean nitrate, from July 1, 1918 to May 31, 1919, totaled only 2,200,417 tons of 2,204.6 pounds, whereas for the same period in 1917 and 1918 it rose to 2,738,285 tons, a gain of 537,868 tons in the latter named period, according to a report from the American Consul at Antofagasta, Chile, June 7, 1919.

Normally, however, production and demand center around 1,840,515 tons yearly. At present the amount exported is negligible, and it is estimated that if the present rate of production is maintained and there is not a corresponding demand established before the end of the year, there will be a sufficient quantity of nitrate on hand to take care of all normal demands for one year from January 1, 1920.

TIMBER

THE PURCHASE OF AMERICAN LUMBER BY FRANCE IS ADVOCATED in La Vie Agricole of July 26, 1919, in order to supply an estimated need of 14,715,000 board feet annually for several years. The species recommended are Douglas fir and southern pine. At present the tariff and freight rates in France on American lumber are much higher than on lumber coming from European countries, and American measurements are different from those employed in Europe. But, referring to an opinion expressed in Le Temps, La Vie Agricole agrees that these difficulties are not insurmountable and that an understanding might be reached to the great advantage of the devastated provinces.

OF GENERAL INTEREST

ITALIAN COMMISSION TO DEVELOP FOREIGN TRADE.---Italy has appointed a commission to regulate the foreign trade of that country. The objects of the commission are as follows: (1) To investigate the most efficient means for promoting and developing Italian trade; (2) To study export transportation problems; (3) to formulate instructions for commercial attaches and members of the diplomatic and consular service as regards foreign trade policy; (4) to consider the establishment of new consulates; (5) to consider the appointment of additional commercial attaches to coordinate the work of the various departments of the Government dealing with foreign trade relations.

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., October 23, 1919

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STOCKS OF FOODSTUFFS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.---The British Food Controller, at the request of Parliament, recently compiled statistics of the stocks of foodstuffs on hand in the United Kingdom at the beginning of the war and on July 1 of this year. These stocks are given in the following table:

Commodity	: July 1, 1919	: Sept. 1, 1914	::	Commodity	: July 1, 1919	: Sept. 1, 1914
Wheat & flour	: Tons	: Tons	::	Eggs	: Tons	: Tons
(as grain) ...	1,314,000	2,684,000	::	Butter	18,800	16,900
Rice	115,000	*85,000	::	Margarine ...	3,100	2,800
Beef	20,000	24,100	::	Cheese	7,600	12,900
Mutton	29,900	36,000	::	Sugar	404,000	131,000
Rabbits, poul-try, & game ...	7,200	5,600	::	Tea	78,500	36,200
Bacon & hams ...	27,700	12,000	::	Coffee	49,300	20,800
Other meat	46,600	10,400	::	Cocoa	67,400	14,400
Lard	10,200	8,200	::			

*September 1, 1916. Figures for 1914 not available.

These figures show that with the exception of wheat and flour, beef, mutton, eggs, and cheese, there was a greater supply available on July 1 of this year than on September 1, 1914. Mr. Roberts in his reply to Parliament made the following statement:

"Returns of stocks were not collected prior to the outbreak of war. The earliest figures available are those for September 1, 1914.The

figures for wheat and flour include stocks in port granaries and warehouses, inland warehouses, mills and bakers' shops, and estimated farm stocks; those for rice include stocks in port granaries and warehouses and in mills; those for meat and provisions include stocks at ports, in cold stores, and in importers' and the larger wholesalers' warehouses; and those for sugar, tea, coffee, and cocoa are stocks remaining in bonded warehouses or entered to be warehoused."

BUSINESS SITUATION IN GERMANY.---According to a report of Supercargo M. E. Pellett, of the United States Shipping Board, dated October 2, 1919, "Germany is in need of practically everything that American merchants have to offer. It is a market, and yet it is not a market. Even if German merchants pay in cash, this must be in marks, which are permitted to leave Germany in only very limited quantities; and the value of the mark to-day is almost negligible. While in Hamburg I bought as many as 27 for \$1; tomorrow it may be worthless. Any American merchant going into Germany to do business at the present time must be prepared to do it upon that basis.

"As for credit, none is given. Everything is on a spot-cash basis. The kind of credit that will help Germany -- and, by helping her, help America and the entire world as well -- is that kind which will rehabilitate her industries, give employment to the masses, and permit Germany to resume trading in the world markets. There can be no resumption of commercial relations between the average American merchant and the average German merchant until conditions in Germany shall have been somewhat stabilized; and this stabilization now appears possible only by extending the German people assistance through Government channels or through financial interests of power and vision.

"For the benefit of those who desire to get in touch with representative merchants of Hamburg, with a view to immediate or future business, there follows a list of the largest and best importers of various commodities. The list was given me by a thoroughly reliable American business man who has spent 11 years in Hamburg as branch manager of one of the largest exporting companies of the United States."

Copies of this list may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Markets. The list comprises importers of farm products, tobacco, slaughter-house products, fruits, honey, wax, hides, skins, woods, cocoa, gum, palm nuts, corn, copra, coffee, potatoes, intestines, bones, blueberries, game, and northern products, general provisions, tree wool, cereals, nuts, vanilla, wool, wool refuse, powdered food, all kinds of raw products, silk, hair, seeds, and raw gum.

Hamburg Money Market.---"I bought, at different times during my week in Hamburg, from 13 to 27 marks for \$1 U.S. The price of marks fluctuates with the demand. There is no published rate of exchange, and no bank will undertake to establish a rate which will be good for even an hour. The practice is for the banks, when requiring foreign money, to telephone to their customers that such and such money is needed and that such and such a rate will be paid. Just the second the amount required is obtained, the rate drops. There are severe restrictions against the exportation of marks; yet marks are constantly being

NOTE.---UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U.S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONIES.

smuggled over the border into Holland and elsewhere. The effect, of course, is to depreciate still further the value of the mark. The American packers, for example, doing business in Hamburg, have enormous amounts of marks lying in German banks -- marks that they have accepted at much higher rates than are now obtainable. They can not take them out of the country. If they disposed of them now, they would lose millions of dollars."

THE PRICES OF RAISINS FROM THE MALAGA REGION OF SPAIN for the coming season were fixed on August 6 by the Wholesale Merchants' Syndicate at the following rates, per pound according to quality: cluster raisins \$0.13 to \$0.24; loose raisins \$0.102 to \$0.19, according to Exportacion de Pasa Valenciana, Denia, for August 14, 1919. These prices represent a large increase above the opening prices of 1918. Drying operations had already begun during the first part of August.

According to the Customs statistics the following quantities of raisins were exported from Malaga during 1918:

	<u>Pounds</u>	::		<u>Pounds</u>
France	2,277,352	::	Uruguay	216,051
Denmark	1,860,682	::	Mexico	180,777
Norway	1,735,020	::	United States	141,094
England	1,580,696	::	Italy	134,481
Gibraltar	1,150,801	::	Brazil	61,729
Cuba	928,137	::	Chile	50,706
Argentina	859,794	::		
Morocco	630,516	::	Total	11,807,836

As shown above large quantities were exported to France for the British and American armies. The following table gives the quantities of raisins imported by the United States from Spain for the fiscal years 1914 - 1918, together with the average value per pound.

	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Av. cost</u>		<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Av. cost</u>
		<u>per lb.</u>			<u>per lb.</u>
1914 . . .	1,691,333	: \$0.105	::	1917 . . .	1,836,688 : \$0.126
1915 . . .	1,549,692	: .111	::	1918 . . .	780,440 : .18
1916 . . .	1,010,169	: .14	::		

MARKET FOR PRESERVES, JAMS, AND JELLIES IN BRAZIL.---The American Consul at Pernambuco, Brazil, reports, under date of August 30, 1919, that a good market exists in the Pernambuco consular district for preserves, jams and jellies. He writes as follows: "There is a good, steady demand for such goods. The stock in the market at the present time is small. About one-third of the supply is imported from foreign countries, the remainder being of local manufacture. The foreign sources of supply are the United States, Great Britain, France, and Portugal, in the order given.

"Most importers of this class of goods state that the containers most suitable are those of tin because of the possibility of breakage of glass in unloading the goods from ships. However, some glass containers are used in

the goods imported at the present time. These containers are packed in straw or sawdust, generally in the former. The importers emphasize the desirability of using boxes of stout wood, as they say losses have occurred through the breaking of frail boxes."

A list of the importers of these goods in Pernambuco may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Markets by asking for report Brazil 126314.

Fixed Wholesale Prices of Jam and Jelly in United Kingdom, Effective September 15, 1919*

Kind	Maximum prices where container holds -				
	1 lb.	2 lbs.	3 lbs.	7 lbs.	Over
					Per lb.
Cherry, strawberry	\$0.22	\$0.41	\$0.62	\$1.42	\$0.13
Apricot, peach, pineapple,					
pineapple and apricot, quince .....	.21	.39	.57	1.34	.17
Black currant, loganberry, logan-					
berry and raspberry, raspberry.....	.20	.38	.57	1.32	.17
Blackberry, raspberry and plum,					
strawberry and plum .....	.19	.36	.52	1.22	.15
Damson, greengage, plum, red currant,					
raspberry and red currant .....	.19	.35	.52	1.20	.15
Apricot and apple, blackberry and					
apple, greengage and apple, black					
currant and apple, red currant and					
apple, loganberry and apple, rasp-					
berry and apple, strawberry and					
apple, raspberry and gooseberry,					
strawberry and gooseberry .....	.18	.34	.51	1.18	.15
Marmalade, rhubarb and preserved					
ginger .....	.18	.34	.50	1.16	.15
Damson and apple, gooseberry, goose-					
berry and red currant, plum and					
apple .....	.17	.33	.49	1.13	.15
Rhubarb, gooseberry, and apple .....	.17	.30	.45	1.06	.13
Jam of any other description .....	.16	.27	.42	1.00	.12

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on October 16, when 1 pound sterling = \$4.175.

Note.-(1) If jam or jelly is sold in a quantity of less than 7 lbs. in a container holding a quantity not specified above, the maximum price is to be at the rate per lb. applicable to sales in a container holding the next higher quantity specified.

(2) Where the jam or jelly is contained in a 7 lb. returnable container, the buyer shall be entitled to recover from the seller the sum of \$0.104 for each such jar or container returned by him to the seller in good condition.

(3) Where the jam or jelly is contained in a 7 lb. non-returnable container the maximum price shall be decreased by \$0.052 in respect of each such container.

(4) Jam or jelly made from rhubarb and preserved ginger may be described as "Rhubarb and preserved ginger" notwithstanding the provisions of clause 4 (c) of the order, provided that the quantity of preserved ginger contained in such jam or jelly shall be not less than 20 per cent of the total fruit content.

PRICES AND SUPPLY OF CURRANTS IN GREECE.---"Patras" currants were selling at \$0.115 per lb. on the Patras, Greece, market on August 5, according to a report of the American Consul at Patras. "Amalias" were quoted at \$0.11 per lb. The freight rate on currants from Patras to New York is quoted at \$19.46 to \$21.90 per ton. The currant crop in Greece for 1919-20 is estimated at 145,000 short tons.

RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTATION OF VEGETABLE SEEDS INTO BERMUDA.--- Effective September 1, 1919, the following vegetable seeds only may be imported into the Bermuda Islands, according to a report of the American Vice Consul at Hamilton, dated September 1, 1919:

Beet:	Egyptian, Crosby's Improved Egyptian.
Carrot:	Danvers Half-long, Chantenay
Celery:	French-Grown Golden Self-Blanching
Corn, field:	Golden Beauty, Reid's Yellow Dent, Long's Champion
Corn, sweet:	Country Gentleman, Stowell's Evergreen, Metropolitan, Golden Bantam.
Lettuce, Cos:	White Heart (Sutton's), Trianon, White Paris.
Watermelon:	Arkansas Traveller, Kleckley's Sweet.
Parsley:	Local Doubled-Curled, Champion Moss-Curled.
Onion:	Bermuda, White or Yellow.

A quantity of each separate importation of seed of each kind of vegetable must be forwarded to the Director of Agriculture before the seed is offered for sale, or at any time that the Board may direct, in order that such seed may be examined for germinating power and trueness to type.

Each packet or package of vegetable seed offered for sale in the Bermuda Islands is required to have printed, stamped, or written on it the name of the person or firm offering it for sale, the name of the person or firm from whom the seed was imported, the name of the variety of vegetable contained therein, and the date on which the seed was imported into the islands.

YEAR-OLD ONION SEED COMING FROM THE CANARIES.---Large quantities of onion seed of the 1918 crop have been exported from the Canary Islands to the United States with shipments of the 1919 crop, reports the American Consul at Teneriffe, under date of September 19, 1919. Owing to a drought in the islands (See Reports on Foreign Markets No. 4, page 11) the production

of seed this year did not exceed 30,000 lbs. Yet 72,765 lbs. were invoiced at the American Consulate for exportation to the United States. Large quantities of seed were shipped on consignment, but when not so shipped the buyers were informed that the seed formed part of the 1918 crop. According to statements of the growers the percentage of germination of the 1918 crop is about 70; that of the 1919 crop about 90.

AMENDED REGULATIONS GOVERNING IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF WHEAT PRODUCTS BY CANADA.---The Canadian Wheat Board has granted permission for the importation and exportation of bread without individual licenses. General permission is also granted for export to the United States without individual licenses of wheat flour, bran, and shorts in retail quantities by wagon loads along the frontier.

OIL SEEDS AT KARACHI, INDIA, NOT MOVING.---Owing to shortage in ocean tonnage a large surplus of flaxseed and rapeseed has accumulated in the district surrounding Karachi, India, reports the American Consul at Karachi, under date of August 9, 1919. "Owners or agents of vessels engaged in American-Indian trade may find this of interest as a potential factor in solving the problem of return freights." A list of the firms in Karachi dealing in these seeds will be furnished to those interested by asking for report India 126390.

CONTROL PRICES OF EGGS IN UNITED KINGDOM.*---According to a cablegram from the Agricultural Trade Commissioner at London, dated October 1, 1919, the British Food Controller resumed the control of eggs and has set the following maximum prices, per dozen: Fresh eggs, domestic or imported, wholesale \$1.04; retail \$1.14; preserved, wholesale \$0.83; retail \$0.93; small eggs, wholesale \$0.56; retail \$0.62.

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on Oct. 16, when 1 pound sterling = \$4.175.

BRITISH PREJUDICE AGAINST FROZEN MEAT COMPELS REDUCTION OF PRICES.---According to a report of Mr. Turner Wright, of this Bureau, the prejudice against frozen meat exists to such an extent in the United Kingdom that the British Food Controller was compelled to reduce the prices of imported meat considerably below those for the home-dressed products. The following table will give an idea of the difference in the wholesale selling prices of the two classes of meats.

Maximum Wholesale Prices of Home-dressed and
Imported Meats in the United Kingdom

(Price per 100 pounds)

	Home-dressed	Imported		Home-dressed	Imported
<u>Beef</u>			<u>Mutton & Lamb</u>		
Sides	\$ 14.772	\$11.300	Carcass	\$ 15.643	\$12.165
Hind-quarter and flanks	17.286	13.757	Hind-quarter :	17.958	14.479
Hind-quarter ex flanks	13.250	14.772	Fore-quarter :	14.050	10.564
Top pieces and flanks	16.222	12.743	Legs	19.265	15.786
Top side	21.436	17.958	Loins	16.300	13.322
Thick flank	19.700	16.222	Shoulders	16.800	13.322
Silver and fat ...	19.122	15.643	Necks	13.322	9.850
Aitch bone	11.586	8.107	Breasts	9.850	6.372
Leg beef	5.793	2.314	Scraggs	9.850	6.372
Pump	22.015	18.536	Best end	17.958	14.479
Loin and suet	20.279	16.800			
Pump and loin	20.858	17.379	<u>Pork</u>		
Flank	9.850	6.372	Carcass	18.536	16.515
Fore-quarter	12.315	8.836	Loins	21.179	19.122
Middle piece	13.907	10.429	Legs	19.443	17.379
Clod & sticking ..	9.272	5.793	Bellies	20.279	18.250
Shin	5.793	2.314	Necks	15.936	13.907
Brisket	12.165	8.693	Hands	15.936	13.907
Fore-quarter			Heads	9.557	7.529
flank	9.850	6.372			
Long crop	14.922	11.443			

BRITISH EMBARGO ON IMPORTATION OF SLAUGHTER CATTLE.---Agricultural Trade Commissioner Edward A. Foley, cabled on October 17, 1919 that the British Food Controller prohibited provisionally the importation of live cattle for slaughter, as there are no accommodations for quarantining the animals and the present rationing system is interfered with.

PRICES OF STEERS IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE.---The price of live steers on the Brussels market has been fixed at 4 francs per kilo, or \$21.10 per 100 lbs. at rate of exchange prevailing on October 18, when 8.63 francs = \$1.00.

At the public market held at Paris on October 13, live steers sold at the following prices per 100 lbs.: Extra grade, \$29; first grade, \$23; second grade, \$26; third grade, \$23.

REVISION OF PROGRAM OF LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS

(Special Report for Bureau of Markets from American Consul General at London)

The dates of two remaining series of London wool auctions have been changed as follows: The next series will take place from October 27 to November 14 and the final series from December 1 to 19.

SHORTAGE OF FOOD IN HAMBURG

(From a Supercargo Report of the United States Shipping Board)

"The poorer classes of people are literally starving to death. Everybody is supposed to subsist on rations, all foodstuffs being issued on cards. The well-to-do, however, are fed at the expense of the poor, due to the fact that there exists a large amount of illicit trafficking in foodstuffs. Restaurants put up meals that compare very favorably with middle-class eating places in the United States, and such a dinner may be had from 20 to 30 marks. This price, naturally, is prohibitive except for the rich, since it means, to the Germans, relatively, paying from \$5 to \$7.50 for a meal, although to the American, who buys marks with his dollars, the price seems low enough. The German, of course, uses as standard of comparison the former value or purchasing power of the mark. As a rule, knowing nothing of exchange, he is unable to grasp the significance of the present low rate. Many restaurants in Hamburg have been closed by the authorities. Farmers are rationed by requiring them to bring to market all except a certain amount of products raised. The shortage in foodstuffs extends to practically every article of common consumption. The anomaly was observed during my sojourn in Hamburg, of seeing 3,000 tons of sugar loaded for shipment to France, while it was almost impossible to obtain sugar at any price in that city."

EXPORTS FROM NEW YORK FOR WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 11

All exports were considerably reduced, owing to the strike of longshoremen.

Meats and Meat Products.---During the week 1,120,513 lbs. of lard were shipped to England; 3,844,286 lbs. of dry, salt, and pickled pork were exported to Italy. Total quantities exported: fresh or frozen beef 110,025 lbs.; canned or pickled beef 91,700 lbs.; lamb and mutton 31,400 lbs.; fresh or frozen pork 175,498 lbs.; dry, salt, and pickled pork 4,207,125 lbs.; bacon, hams, and shoulders 2,405,999 lbs.; lard and lard compounds 2,154,403 lbs.; sausage 140,525 lbs.; poultry and game 1,400 lbs.

Dairy Products.---Large quantities of condensed and evaporated milk were exported to the United Kingdom, 5,406,777 lbs. of the former and 1,629,199 lbs. of the latter; 234,030 dozen eggs were shipped to the United Kingdom. On October 7th 121,250 lbs. of condensed milk and 25,700 lbs. of evaporated milk were shipped to Greece; Belgium took 331,715 lbs. and Scandinavia 265,715 lbs. of cheese.

FARM LABOR SCARCE IN ARGENTINA

The National Labor Department of Argentina informed the Ministry of the Interior that there is a marked indifference on the part of laborers to respond to offers of work on the farms, though from \$1.28 to \$1.38* per day, with transportation paid, is offered.

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on August 12, when 1 peso = \$1.0425.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF MARKETS
FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., October 30, 1919

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**BRITISH GOVERNMENT ENDEAVORS TO PLACE WOOL INTO THE
 HANDS OF USERS QUICKLY**

Several inquiries have been received by the Bureau of Markets for information relative to the "proposed sale in the United States of 500,000,000 pounds of raw wool from the United Kingdom." So far as this Bureau has been informed officially, the British Government will sell 40,000 bales of Australian wool and 10,000 bales of New Zealand wool at Boston during the latter part of November. A bale of Australasian wool weighs 330 pounds; on this basis, this total allotment will amount to 16,500,000 pounds.

That this quantity represents approximately the total allotment for sale in the United States is borne out by the following statement which appeared in the London Times Trade Supplement for October 4, 1919:

"The English Government has announced its intention of selling to the United States 20,000,000 pounds of its superfluous holdings of Australasian wool, and a similar announcement will shortly be made as to sales of Australasian wool at Antwerp."

The following excerpt from another article in the same issue of the Times Trade Supplement will throw further light on the British wool situation and the reasons for holding sales at Boston and Antwerp.

"The (British) Government Wool Department have done everything they could to transfer wool from themselves to users. They have had every in-

ducement to do so in order to take advantage of favorable market conditions from which the nation, as owners of the wool, are benefiting. When the sales by auction were resumed in London last April, it was found there was a demand for more wool than the London brokers could get through their sales. Therefore, the Government Wool Department not only held sales of wool in Liverpool and Bradford under ordinary auction conditions, but they instituted "sales by description" - purchasers buying on description without having inspection of the wool - in order that the raw material might be transferred into private hands more quickly. The quantity of wool sold through these channels was such that wool traders and users in this country were being overwhelmed, and it was confidently expected there would be a decline in values as a consequence. Therefore, in order that the nation might secure a legitimate price for what it had bought by use of public funds, the system of restricting bidding to traders in this country and allocating limited quantities to certain of our Allies, was abandoned and the Government Wool Department decided to permit open competition, even by purchasers representing enemy countries. In addition, they have decided to hold sales of Government-owned wool at Antwerp and at Boston, U.S.A., in order to relieve congestion at our ports, and the more quickly to get wool into the hands of users."

DAIRY PRODUCTS

CHINESE DRIED EGGS POPULAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The following report on the rapid growth of the Chinese egg powder trade with the United Kingdom was received from Agricultural Trade Commissioner Edward A. Foley, under date of September 26, 1919. The enormous increase in the use of this article indicates that it is destined to become an important competitor of the fresh egg.

"Since 1915 China has been exporting large quantities of dried eggs to the United Kingdom. However, it is only within the present year that the trade has increased to such a large extent that the country literally seems flooded with the Chinese product. The following table indicates the increase from 1915 to 1918. In British reports dried and powdered eggs are included under the classification "Egg-yolk liquid and albumen."

Value of the Imports of Egg Yolk Liquid and Albumen by the United Kingdom, 1915 - 1918

Imported from -	1915	1916	1917	1918
China	\$3,589,623	\$6,424,028	\$6,967,066	\$ 9,355,725
United States	195,395	142,491	87,018	1,505,028
British possessions,	:	:	:	:
including Hongkong	:	:	:	:
and Macao	118,524	171,598	27,067	1,972,319
All others	211,395	41,604	23,447	815,221
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$4,114,933</u>	<u>\$6,779,721</u>	<u>\$7,104,598</u>	<u>\$15,648,293</u>

NOTE.---UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U.S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS.

"Although the increase from 1917 to 1918 was large, the monthly statement of the Board of Trade just issued indicates the enormous growth of the trade during the current year. This report shows that while for the first eight months of 1918 the imports of these commodities amounted to \$5,712,205, the value of the imports for the January-August period of 1919 was \$20,954,492, an increase of 267 per cent. This increase is due almost entirely to the importation of egg powder or dried eggs from China.

"The small stores of the United Kingdom are flooded with this commodity. It is marketed by grocery, fruit, and delicatessen shops, and I have been informed that the large sales attest the popularity of the product. A dealer in the West End, London's residential district of the better class, frankly stated that his sales of dried eggs amounted to more than \$4,300 monthly.

"The powder is imported largely in bulk and is repacked in the United Kingdom in small cartons without mention of the origin of the powder.

"The product is packed in boxes containing a quantity of powder said to be equal to the contents of one dozen eggs. The usual price is \$0.60 per box.

"The high price of eggs, together with the low price of the powder, is expected to increase its use to the detriment of the fresh egg. Householders who have used this powder have told me that for cooking purposes, for omelets, for scrambling, etc., it is quite the equal of the fresh article."

PROSPECTS FOR CONDENSED MILK IN ITALY.---At the present time the importation of condensed milk into Italy is under the control of the Government and can not be imported by private firms. However, according to a statement of the Canadian Trade Commissioner, published in the Weekly Bulletin, Ottawa, for September 6, 1919, "this measure is only of a temporary character."

In normal times Italy exported annually nearly 10,000,000 pounds of condensed milk and imported about 1,000,000 pounds, mostly from Switzerland. During the war the situation changed and very large imports of condensed and evaporated milk were necessary. The United States furnished 8,545,616 pounds during the fiscal year of 1918, or 90 per cent of Italy's imports of that commodity.

Owing to the alarming scarcity of milk in 1918, the prices became extremely high, medium grades retailing at \$0.76 to 0.95 for the 12 or 14 oz. can of medium-grade milk. The better qualities brought \$1.33 to \$1.52 per can. As natural milk became more plentiful this year, "the prices of condensed milk dropped," says the Canadian Trade Commissioner, "owing not only to the fact that the Italians prefer the natural milk, and there is therefore less demand, but also to the fact that stocks which had been held for speculation purposes were forced on a market of decreasing demand."

Mr. Turner Wright, of the Bureau of Markets, reported that when he was in Italy in June, 1919, condensed milk was selling at 1 lira (\$0.193) per can.

EVAPORATED MILK NOT IN FAVOR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.---The American Consul General at London reports that evaporated milk is not in favor in the United Kingdom, owing to its lack of keeping qualities after the container has been opened. Exporters of condensed and evaporated milk who may expect an increased trade in the United Kingdom, owing to the very serious shortage of natural milk, should bear this in mind. The retail price of milk has been fixed by the British Food Controller at \$0.24 per quart for the winter months.

PARIS NEEDS 80,000 POUNDS OF BUTTER DAILY, according to the Commissioner General for Canada in France, in an article published in the Canadian Weekly Bulletin for September 1, 1919. Before the war "the Dairy-men's Association in Paris, which comprises the butter buyers for Paris, had been getting most of their butter from Siberia, and the balance from Normandy. The supply in Normandy, however, is not at present enough for her own consumption, so that Normandy now imports butter herself. No butter is expected to be imported from Siberia for at least five years.

"The Paris dealers alone require at least 80,000 pounds a day. That is to say, they can struggle along with this, as many people have got used to eating no butter at all, but it has to be used for cooking. They can, therefore, from October 15 for five months following, handle 80,000 pounds per day. The importation into Paris for the three years previous to the war amounted to 117,000 pounds per day."

Both unsalted and salted butter from Canada, sent by parcel post, was well received in Paris. According to the available statistics for the period from April 17 to October 18, 1919, the United States has exported less than 100,000 pounds of butter to France.

SEEDS

LONDON TRADE IN FARM SEEDS.*---"The autumn trade in farm seeds has now begun at Mark Lane, and promises to be of a very interesting character. Large purchases are anticipated, and there are large and good new crops in strong hands", says the London Times Trade Supplement for October 4, 1919. "Not only are average prices four times the prewar standard, but in some cases there has been an advance since the Armistice, instead of the anticipated decline. Rye-grass opens with 100s. per quarter (\$0.0438 per lb.) demanded; up to 300s. per cwt. (\$0.564) is asked for new English red-clover seed; and 150s. to 180s. (\$0.282 -- 0.388) for milled sainfoin. The American cables advising 280s. per cwt. (\$0.526) demanded for new red-clover seed for shipment, c.i.f., warn the London trade that help to buyers can not be expected from that side."

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on October 4, when 1 pound sterling = \$4.21.

MARKET FOR SEEDS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.---The Central Union of Bohemian Agricultural Societies, Prague, is in the market for the following seeds: timothy, Kentucky bluegrass, orchard-grass, rye-grass, and other meadow and pasture grass seeds. The Union has red-clover seed for sale, according to a report of the American Trade Commissioner at Prague to the Department of Commerce. The Commissioner states that the business transactions of the Union, which comprises 2,084 cooperative agricultural societies, represented an annual turnover of \$304,500,000.

GRAIN

FIXED PRICE OF WHEAT AND RYE IN SWEDEN.---The Swedish Government has fixed the price of wheat at \$2.75 per bushel, and the price of rye at \$2.50 per bushel, according to a report of the American Consul General at Stockholm, dated September 24, 1919. These prices are the result of negotiations between the Swedish Government and an association of mills which controls the supply, and will be effective for Swedish grain purchased by the association, for grain imported by the association, and for grain transferred by the former rationing committee of the association to the Government.

CARRY-OVER OF GRAIN IN CANADA.---The Canadian Bureau of Statistics reports the following quantities of grain on hand in Canada on August 31, 1919, these quantities representing the "carry-over" into the new crop year beginning September 1.

Wheat	3,454,000 bu.	: Rye	159,000 bu.
Barley	3,345,000 bu.	: Flaxseed	55,000 bu.
Oats	19,280,000 bu.	:	

The Bureau of Statistics states that the totals given are under, rather than over the actual quantities, because grain in transit, grain in country elevators from which returns were not received, grain in flour mills and grain in retail hands are not included.

AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL WHEAT STATISTICS.---Statistics furnished by the Australian Wheat Board for the four seasons ended June 30, 1919, show that the following quantities of wheat have been handled by the Board:

	1918-19	1917-18	1916-17	1915-16
	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
Exports	1,022,000	23,775,000	36,103,000	95,219,000
Local sales	6,336,000	36,490,000	61,359,000	64,334,000
Shippers' stocks	49,693,000	41,293,000	40,689,000	3,821,000
Millers' stocks ..	7,238,000	1,785,000	124,000	----
Total	64,559,000	103,343,000	138,275,000	163,374,000

BRITISH PRICES FOR 1919 WHEAT.---British home-grown wheat of the 1919 harvest will be sold to millers at prices that will realize an average of \$2.18 per bushel. The market will be free and each sample of wheat will be purchased on its merits, says the Agricultural Gazette, London, for August 25, 1919. Every seller of wheat will have to make the best terms possible, as under the ordinary prewar conditions of a free market. While it is expected that the average price received will be at least \$2.18 per bushel, arrangements have been made to reimburse the producer if it should fall below.

FRUITS, NUTS, AND VEGETABLES

CANNED FRUITS WILL HAVE A READY SALE IN BRAZIL.---Canned fruits of the temperate zones, such as peaches, pears, cherries, and plums, will find a ready sale throughout Brazil, according to a report of the American Consul in Charge at Rio de Janeiro, dated September 15, 1919. Tropical and sub-tropical fruits--bananas, oranges, pineapples, and guavas--furnish suitable material in unlimited quantities for jams and jellies, so that no large market in Brazil for American jams and jellies can be established.

The canning industry of Brazil is being developed through the protection of a high import tariff. For this reason only canned fruit of the best quality, or fruits of which Brazil does not have a surplus, can be profitably imported.

The value of preserved fruits exported by the United States to Brazil during the fiscal years 1914 - 1918, were as follows:

1914	\$13,934 ::	1917	\$10,878
1915	6,139 ::	1918	23,973
1916	10,592 ::		

Either tin or glass containers may be used. The goods should be packed in strong wooden cases, which should be strapped with wire. If glass containers are used, they should be well packed in straw or sawdust in order to reduce to a minimum the breakage caused by rough handling. Pilfering during transit should be guarded against by strapping the cases.

POSSIBLE MARKET FOR AMERICAN SIRUPS IN WEST AFRICA.---The American Consul at Dakar, Senegal dated (August 30, 1919), believes that as the natives of West Africa use the small quantities of sugar they are able to procure to make sweetened water or to eat with their bread, sirups will find a ready market. The Consul says: "I am firmly of the opinion that, if proper efforts were put forth, grape sirups, as well as sugar-cane and sorghum sirups, would find a large and growing market in West Africa.

"These sirups could be introduced by advertising with large picture posters and a careful free distribution of samples through a good large food importer as agent in each of the principal West African ports. The samples might be put up in small tins or bottles."

TASMANIAN JAM COMING TO UNITED STATES.---According to a report from commercial sources, an American steamer loaded at Hobart, Tasmania, with 40,000 cases of jam for New York and Boston. Other shipments will follow during the fall.

BRITISH FOOD CONTROLLER FIXES MAXIMUM PRICES FOR LIVE CATTLE.---The British Food Controller has fixed the following maximum prices for live cattle until July 3, 1920. These prices have been made on the following basis: First grade, 75s. per cwt. (112 lbs.); second grade, 70s.; third grade, 65s. per cwt. To these basic prices are added additional sums increasing from 4s. during October and the first half of November, 1919, to 1 pound during the latter half of May and to July 3, 1920.

Fixed Maximum Prices for Live Cattle
in the United Kingdom, 1919-20

Period	: Maximum price per cwt.: : (112 lbs.) ::			Period	:Maximum price per cwt.: : (112 lbs.) ::		
	: First	:Second:	Third ::		: First	:Second:	Third
	: Grade	:Grade :	Grade ::		: Grade	:Grade :	Grade
<u>1919</u>	:	:	::	<u>1920</u>	:	:	::
October	\$19.20	\$17.98	\$16.77 ::	Feb. 9 - 21...	\$21.15	\$19.93	\$18.73
Nov. 1 - 15 ..	19.20	17.98	16.77 ::	Feb.23-Mar.6 :	21.39	20.17	18.96
Nov.17 - 29 ..	19.45	18.23	17.02 ::	Mar. 8 - 20 ..	21.63	20.41	19.20
Dec. 1 - 13 ..	19.93	18.71	17.50 ::	Mar.22-Apr.3 :	21.88	20.66	19.45
Dec.15 - 27 ..	20.17	18.95	17.74 ::	Apr. 5 - 17 ..	22.12	20.90	19.69
<u>1920</u>	:	:	::	Apr.19-May 1 :	22.36	21.14	19.93
Dec.29-Jan.10:	20.42	19.20	17.99 ::	May 3 - 15 .. :	22.72	21.50	20.29
Jan.12- 24 .. :	20.66	19.44	18.23 ::	May 17 -31 .. :	23.10	21.88	20.67
Jan.26-Feb.7 :	21.00	19.68	18.47 ::	June 1-July 3 :	23.10	21.88	20.67

--Table compiled from Agricultural Gazette, London, August 25, 1919.

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL, TURNS FROM COFFEE TO COTTON.---According to the British Chamber of Commerce Journal for September, 1919, "the damage to the coffee plantations caused by the frosts of July, 1918, has resulted in attention being turned to the cultivation of cotton. Great success has been obtained from this effort to set-off probable losses by decreased coffee crops in the State and, according to calculations made by the local government, a production of no less than 45,000 tons of ginned cotton will be obtained this year. The local textile factories will, it is expected, consume some 25,000 tons of this cotton, and the remainder will, therefore, be available for exportation either to other Brazilian States or to foreign countries. Considerable interest is attached to the possibility of shipping large quantities of this cotton to Great Britain and strong efforts are being made by local producers and exporters to interest Lancashire in the product."

The staple of the Sao Paulo cotton is said to be shorter than that of the cotton produced in Ceara and Pernambuco. It is thought, however, that it will prove very useful in the Lancashire mills and the British Chamber of Commerce is therefore arranging for an experimental shipment of some ten

bales to be made to Liverpool in order that a full and detailed report regarding the cotton may be issued for the benefit of interested parties.

DISORGANIZATION OF INDUSTRY IN GERMANY.---In the following article the conditions of industry in Hamburg, Germany, are taken from a report of Supercargo M. E. Pellett, of the United States Shipping Board, under date of September 16, 1919:

"The war having disorganized all peace-time industry, and the war-time industry having closed its doors with the signing of the armistice, present-day Germany is without industry of any kind. This is especially true of Hamburg. Conditions in some parts of Germany, particularly in the Rhineland, are better. Hamburg presents a really pitiable picture --industrially lifeless. There is literally nothing going on. For example, an English vessel arrived at Hamburg about the time I left there, and advertised for cargo. Antwerp papers now report that she sailed with 5 tons -- all that was offered.

"The most striking evidence of appalling conditions in Hamburg is found in the immense throngs of unemployed. There are literally dozens of men -- in some lines, possibly hundreds of men -- for every job. Labor is a drug on the market. In discharging cargo at the port of Hamburg, our force, except the foreman was changed every day of the six we worked, so as to give as many men as possible a chance to earn a little money. And the highest wages paid by any concern for the best labor is 20 marks a day -- less than \$1 U. S. at the most favorable rate obtainable at the time of my departure. Plentiful as labor is, it is still difficult to obtain on short notice, due to the cumbersome machinery of the Soldiers' and Workmen's Councils. Many men, moreover, do not want to work, because the Government feeds them whether they work or not. Women labor at heavy tasks alongside men--women, too, who live in magnificent homes, but of empty cupboards."

BRITISH METHODS OF FINANCING SALES TO GERMANY.---According to a cablegram from the Acting Commercial Attache at London, British firms are shipping against deposits in German banks of marks to the value of shipments at the present rates of exchange plus a margin for fluctuation.

The American Commercial Attache at The Hague recently cabled to the Department of State the following information regarding these methods:

"British exports to Germany are at present suffering a severe slump. Principal underlying reasons are: (1) The slump in German exchange; (2) the present uncertainty as to whether stocks now lying at Rotterdam, Cologne, and elsewhere will be subjected to German import control and gold duties; (3) the congestion at Rotterdam and Cologne making deliveries uncertain.

"Most exports are now being sold cash on delivery at German port. Under these circumstances, British and other banks at present are financing practically no stocks or new shipments at full value. From best information obtainable here and at Cologne, it appears that British exporters are now bearing the entire risk of practically all shipments to Germany."